

REMARKS

Claims 51-65 are pending in the current application. Claims 51-65 currently stand rejected, and claims 51, 54, 57, 60, and 63 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 51-65 are respectfully requested in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks.

Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner for his time and consideration in granting and conducting the Examiner Interview of January 19, 2010. During the interview, the parties discussed new claims 51-65, prior art references Taira and Takahashi, and written description support in the specification. The Examiner expressed concerns that the presented language "if the actual data size of each thumbnail picture is less than a size of the corresponding object unit, padding data in a remainder portion of the one of the object units" lacked written description in the specification as filed. As such, Applicants have cancelled this language from the claims to overcome the resulting written description rejections. The Examiner further indicated that recording an actual size of the thumbnail pictures appeared to overcome the currently-applied references; however, the Examiner also expressed concerns as to adequate written description for this claim term. Applicants have retained the claim language regarding the actual size of the thumbnail pictures and discuss where such language finds written description support below.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 51-65 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

With regard to each independent claim, the Examiner states that “the menu management information including information indicating an actual data size of each thumbnail picture, wherein, if the actual data size of one of the thumbnail pictures is less than a size of the one of the object units in which the one of the thumbnail pictures is recorded, padding data is recorded in a remainder portion of the one of the object units, the remainder portion following the actual data of each thumbnail picture” is not described in the original specification to show possession of the same. Applicants have cancelled the “if . . .” portion of the claim, rendering the rejection with regard to that portion moot.

The remaining “information indicating an actual data size of each thumbnail picture of the first and second groups” finds written description support in at least FIG. 8, illustrating both a starting address and an ending address for each thumbnail picture. These starting and ending addresses are information that indicates the actual data size of the single thumbnail picture described by the starting and ending addresses, because the difference between the two is the actual data size. This is in contrast to conventional mapping schemes, where only a starting address or cell number identifies a self-contained thumbnail picture and no separate ending address exists so as to

indicate the size of the thumbnail picture. As such, the recited "information indicating an actual data size of each thumbnail picture of the first and second groups" finds written description in the application as filed.

Examiner Interview Requested

Applicants thank the Examiner for his past willingness to discuss the current application. In the instance that any of the written description rejections are maintained, Applicants further respectfully request an interview with the Examiner in order to discuss the above arguments and/or alternate claim language necessary to place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner contact Applicants' representative, Ryan Alley, at 703.668.8046 or ralley@hdp.com in order to schedule such an interview and obtain an agenda for the same, before issuing a further Office Action.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 51-65 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

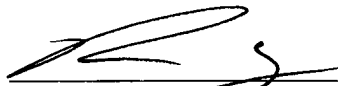
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ryan Alley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



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